



Rocks and Minerals

Rocks Tell the Story of the Earth

The Earth is made of rock, from the tallest mountains to the floor of the deepest ocean. Thousands of different types of rocks and minerals have been found on Earth. Most rocks at the Earth's surface are formed from only eight elements (oxygen, silicon, aluminum, iron, magnesium, calcium, potassium, and sodium), but these elements are combined in a number of ways to make rocks that are very different.

Rocks are continually changing. Wind and water wear them down and carry bits of rock away; the tiny particles accumulate in a lake or ocean and harden into rock again. The oldest rock that has ever been found is more than 3.9 billion years old. The Earth itself is at least 4.5 billion years old, but rocks from the beginning of Earth's history have changed so much from their original form that they have become new kinds of rock. By studying how rocks form and change, scientists have built a solid understanding of the Earth we live on and its long history.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/collect1/collectgip.html>

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Websites You May Want to Visit

Rocks and Minerals

<http://www.rocks-and-minerals.com/>

Rock Hounds

<http://www.fi.edu/fellows/fellow1/oct98/index2.html>

Books You May Want to Read (Hint: go to the TEL Database, **What Do I Read Next** and choose to do a Custom Search. Under Subject, choose Mineralogy, unclick Adult and then hit Search.)

Rocks & Minerals by R.F. Symes and the staff of the Natural History Museum, London

Text and photographs examine the creation, importance, erosion, mining, and uses of rocks and minerals

1001 Facts About Rocks and Minerals by Sue Fuller

An illustrated reference guide that provides information about the formation, composition, and properties of numerous rocks and minerals

Rocks and Minerals by John Farndon

Discusses the physical properties of various rocks and minerals and gives instructions for experiments that identify their unique characteristics

To Find More

In TEL, go to Kids InfoBits or Junior Edition - K12 and use the following search strategies:

Rock	Minerals
Geologist	Mineralogist
Geology	Mineralogy

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